







circle, square, triangle, rectangle, quatrefoil, ellipse, oval, pentagon, trapezoid and curvilinear triangle.

... once the size of an ellipse has been fixed then its exact shape is mathematically determined. In other words, the line forming the perimeter can be drawn in only ONE way. This is distinct from an oval where the perimeter has only to be a concave curve, and there are many possibilities. Simply, an ellipse IS an oval, but an oval may or may not be an ellipse. ~ Definition from http://mathforum.org

An oval is egg-shaped, with only one line of symmetry. An ellipse has two lines of symmetry. The Neinhuis metal insets include one of each. ~ Lisia's comment

To make an ellipse, you put *two* pushpins into the paper lying over cardboard. Put a loop of string around the two pins that has some slack. Use your pen to pull it tight (such that the pins and your pen make three vertices of a triangle) and then follow it around, and *wallah!!* you have an ellipse. (The beautiful thing is that there's an equation to describe that.) :-) However, it won't be an egg shape...it'll be symmetric whether you fold it the 'long' way or the 'short' way. ~ Cherish's idea



